



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department for the Aging

Julie Christopher, Commissioner

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Note: The web addresses (links) in this document may change over time. The Department for the Aging does not attempt to refresh the links once the week has passed. However, this document is maintained on the web for a period of time as a reference. Some links may require registration.

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging
Julie Christopher, Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Ellen Nau, Human Services Program Coordinator

DATE: June 20, 2006

SUBJECT: Care Coordination

The American Society on Aging 2006 (ASA) Autumn Series will feature on Monday September 11, 2006 a full day intensive session entitled: Care Management Fundamentals: An Intensive Review of Basic Principles and Practice. Continuing education units are available for this session and others presented at the series that will take place over a four day span from September 11 through September 14.

Continuing education credits or certificates of attendance are available for the above-mentioned session or other sessions that include topics on: behavioral health and aging; creative aging; dementia care; family and caregiving issues; end-of-life issues; health promotion and awareness; leadership and organizational issues; legal and ethical issues; long-term care issues; public policy and planning and, religion spirituality and aging.

Attendance fees vary for session attendance and membership in the American Society on Aging or its partner organizations. All sessions will be held at the Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue. Hotel rates are \$135 per night plus taxes. Registration information can be obtained at the ASA website <http://www.agingconference.org>.

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging
Julie Christopher, Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors,
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Bill Peterson
Deputy Commissioner for Programs

DATE: June 20, 2006

SUBJECT: Tuesday Emailing Survey

Commissioner Christopher has asked me to thank those of you who responded to her May 23rd survey about the Tuesday Emailing. Although the comments were positive, VDA will make every effort to include timely and useful materials in each of its emailings to AAAs. Thank you for responding to Julie's request and please do not hesitate to let us know if we can provide you with specific materials or information in these emailings.

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging
 Julie Christopher, Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors, Information & Referral Specialists, Care Coordinators
 Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Faye D. Cates, MSSW, Human Services Program Coordinator

DATE: June 20, 2006

SUBJECT: ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY RECYCLING PROGRAM

In 2005, the Virginia Medicaid program spent nearly \$45 million on durable medical equipment, including wheelchairs, scooters, listening and low-vision aids, adapted computers, and many other types of assistive technology for people with disabilities. Over time, much of this assistive technology may go unused or be discarded because a child out-grows it, a user passes away, or it no longer meets a need for other reasons.

The **Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS)**, the **VATS Advisory Council**, the **Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (VBPD)**, and the **Foundation for Rehabilitation Equipment and Endowment (FREE)** support and encourage the collection, refurbishment, and redistribution of assistive technology both to expand its availability and to make sure that state and federal dollars for AT are well spent. The first step in doing this is to identify existing local AT recycling efforts, help them grow, and publicize them as “best practices” for other communities.

VBPD wants to know if your community has an assistive technology recycling project. It can be as simple and informal as a “loan closet” operated by a local center for independent living, support group, church, funeral home, hospital, business, or community service organization. To help, simply respond to this notice, contact Tom Driscoll at the Virginia Board as indicated below, or contact Jane Lively at VATS directly at 804-726-1904 or jane.lively@drs.virginia.gov. Please provide as much information as you can, including the AT recycling program’s name, location, sponsors, contact information, and a brief description of what it recycles and to whom. For more information about the Virginia Assistive Technology System and assistive technology, visit the VATS website at www.vats.org.

Tom Driscoll

Strategic Planning and Marketing Manager
Virginia Board for People With Disabilities
 202 N. 9th Street, 9th Floor
 Richmond, VA 23219
804-786-9380 (voice)
 800-846-4464 (toll-free, voice & TTY)
 804-786-1118 (fax)
thomas.driscoll@vbpd.virginia.gov
www.vaboard.org

1610 Forest Avenue, Suite 100, Richmond, Virginia 23229
 Toll-Free: 1-800-552-3402 (Voice/TTY) • Phone: 804-662-9333 • Fax: 804-662-9354
 E-mail: aging@vda.virginia.gov • Web Site: www.vda.virginia.gov

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging
Julie Christopher, Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Tim M. Catherman

DATE: June 20, 2006

SUBJECT: Ms. Virginia Senior America

Below is a press release from Pinky O'Neil, Public Relations Director and Ms. Senior America State Director.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NANCY LEE MARTIN OF MECHANICSVILLE, VA
WINNER OF 2006 MS. VIRGINIA SENIOR AMERICA**

Nancy Lee Martin of Mechanicsville, VA, was crowned the 22nd Annual Ms. Virginia Senior America for 2006 at Oakton High School, Vienna, VA, Saturday, June 10. Ms. Martin also received the Community Service Award. An all expense paid trip sponsored by the MVSA Cameo Club will be awarded to Ms. Martin to compete in the Ms. Senior America Pageant to be held in Las Vegas November 6-12. She will be the guest performer for the MVSA Cameo Jewels upcoming performances around the state.

Gladys Bowles of Richmond, was 1st Runner-Up; Suzi Athanas of Virginia Beach, 2nd Runner-Up; Betty Mann of Richmond was the 3rd Runner-Up and she was selected Ms. Congeniality by her fellow contestants.

Other Awards: Talent, Gayle Rogers of Dale City; Philosophy Of Life, Delicia Porter-Ali of Chesapeake; Most Elegant Gown, Bichthu Nguyen of Fairfax; Best Interview, Edna Knicely of Vienna

Ms. Virginia Senior America
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Information Regarding Ms. Martin to be a Guest Speaker at your special event or how to enter Ms. Virginia Senior America Pageant 2006 Call: Pinky O'Neil 703-481-1715.

Pinky O' Neil

State Director

Ms Virginia Senior America

703-481-1715

1581 Regatta Lane

Reston, VA 20194

www.msvirginiasenior.com

www.senioramerica.org

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging
Julie Christopher, Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors, Information & Referral Specialists, Care Coordinators
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Faye D. Cates, MSSW, Human Services Program Coordinator

DATE: June 20, 2006

**SUBJECT: VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
LAUNCHES HURRICANE SEASON CAMPAIGN**

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) partnered with the National Weather Service, the American Red Cross and the Virginia Department of Transportation's Hampton Roads District for **Hurricane and Flooding Preparedness Week, May 21-27, 2006**. The partner organizations will be sending out news releases, creating Web site content and giving media interviews to stress the importance of preparedness in the Commonwealth. **This campaign will continue on throughout hurricane season, which officially began June 1.**

The theme for this year's campaign is **"It Could Happen to You."** VDEM wants people to understand that storms like Hurricane Katrina can happen here in Virginia, and that the storms can affect inland localities as well as those at the coast. The key messages of the campaign will encourage people to: make an emergency communication plan, get an emergency supplies kit, listen for information before and during an emergency and know their evacuation routes. VDEM is attempting to do a better job this year of reaching out to special needs populations, which includes elderly individuals who are served by your agency. They are requesting the assistance of Virginia's Aging network as indicated below to help get their preparedness information out to the people who need it most.

You can:

- Share the campaign theme and key messages with people and organizations (news releases and other information are at www.vaemergency.com). You can also include preparedness materials from the website in your agency newsletter and distribute them via your agency's Public Information & Education activities.

1610 Forest Avenue, Suite 100, Richmond, Virginia 23229
Toll-Free: 1-800-552-3402 (Voice/TTY) • Phone: 804-662-9333 • Fax: 804-662-9354
E-mail: aging@vda.virginia.gov • Web Site: www.vda.virginia.gov

SUBJECT: VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
LAUNCHES HURRICANE SEASON CAMPAIGN

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- Encourage people and organizations to visit www.vaemergency.com to learn more about hurricane and flood preparedness.
- **Encourage people and organizations to request the new brochure "Disaster Preparedness for Seniors". They can get it by calling VDEM at 804-897-6510.**
- Encourage media in the communities you serve to do stories about hurricane and flood preparedness.
- Let VDEM know if you hear of people, schools, businesses or government agencies working to promote hurricane and flood preparedness -- they want to help their efforts be recognized

VDEM wants Virginians to think about hurricane preparedness all season long. Thank you for your time, dedication and your support of emergency preparedness in Virginia. For more information, the contact person for VDEM's outreach efforts is:

Marc LaFountain
Public Outreach Coordinator
Virginia Department of Emergency Management
10501 Trade Court
Richmond, VA 23236
marc.lafountain@vdem.virginia.gov
(804) 897-6500 x 6519
(804) 897-6626 (fax)
www.vaemergency.com

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging
Julie Christopher, Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors
Area Agencies on Aging

AND: Nutrition Directors

FROM: Elaine S. Smith, MS, RD
Program Coordinator

DATE: June 20, 2006

SUBJECT: AAA Nutrition Directors Meeting & Training

WHEN:

Please mark your calendars for Friday, September 22, 2006 for our annual Nutrition Directors Meeting and Training.

WHERE:

This year the meeting will be held in Richmond in the VDA Conference Room. We will also be using videoconferencing technology so that our training can be viewed remotely at the Mountain Empire Older Citizens (MEOC) offices in Big Stone Gap, Southwest VA.

WHO:

While I believe it is important for a representative from each AAA to attend, the training is not mandatory. There is no limit on the number of attendees from each AAA and subcontractors are welcome. Please encourage dietitians or those involved with your menu planning to attend.

WHAT:

Detailed information will be available at a later date; however, the tentative agenda will build on what we learned last year about the DRI's and Maryland's meal planning standards including the following:

- VA's proposed menu planning guidelines
- menu planning training

1610 Forest Avenue, Suite 100, Richmond, Virginia 23229

Toll-Free: 1-800-552-3402 (Voice/TTY) • Phone: 804-662-9333 • Fax: 804-662-9354

E-mail: aging@vda.virginia.gov • Web Site: www.vda.virginia.gov

AAA Nutrition Directors Meeting & Training

June 20, 2006

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- any pertinent information from the State Unit on Aging Nutritionists Conference in August
- opportunity for sharing and networking with other AAA nutrition directors; please come prepared to share ways in which your VDA Program Coordinator can help you provide your services

Since the agenda is still under construction, please let me know if there are topics, questions, or issues that you would like to have covered.

If you have questions or comments, I can be reached at Elaine.Smith@vda.virginia.gov or 804-662-9319. I hope to see you at this training in September!

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging
Julie Christopher, Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors, Information & Referral Specialists, Care Coordinators
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Faye D. Cates, MSSW, Human Services Program Coordinator

DATE: June 20, 2006

**SUBJECT: VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
NEWS RELEASE LAUNCHES HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS
CAMPAIGN "IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU"**

Hurricane season started June 1, 2006, and will last until November 30, 2006. Most memorable from the 2005 season was Hurricane Katrina and its impact on the Gulf Coast. We are told we should be able to sustain ourselves for 3 days post-hurricane. As we work with seniors, we should help them prepare by making them aware of where they can obtain preparedness information.

In May, working collaboratively with the Virginia Department of Transportation, the National Weather Service offices in the Commonwealth and American Red Cross chapters across the state, Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) launched a preparedness campaign, *It Could Happen to You*. On May 15, 2006, the attached news release was distributed to announce the campaign. VDEM encourages organizations working with vulnerable populations to have people:

- Prepare an emergency supply kit;
- Make an emergency communication plan;
- Listen for information before and during an emergency; and
- Know their evacuation routes.

For more information about the preparedness campaign, visit VDEM's web site, www.vaemergency.com. And we can visit www.redcross.org to find contact information for your local American Red Cross chapter.



Virginia Department of Emergency Management

News Release

Virginia Department of Emergency Management
10501 Trade Court, Richmond, VA 23236

CONTACT: Marc LaFountain, VDEM (804) 897-6510
FOR RELEASE AT WILL
May 15, 2006

Virginia Emergency Response Organizations Collaborate on Preparedness Campaign "It Could Happen to You"

Organizations active in Virginia's disaster preparedness and response efforts are collaborating to ensure that Virginians are ready for the upcoming hurricane season, which starts June 1. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, every citizen should know one thing about a tropical storm: It could happen to you.

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management, the Virginia Department of Transportation, National Weather Service offices in the Commonwealth and American Red Cross chapters across the state are promoting a joint public information campaign called, "It Could Happen to You." In addition, the American Red Cross is partnering with VDEM and the Virginia Department of Health in a local "Prepare Hampton Roads" campaign for general emergency preparedness.

Although all of these groups have always worked side-by-side before, during and after an emergency, each organization's outreach efforts have varied. To reach more people more effectively, these emergency preparedness and response groups are partnering this year to emphasize four simple and easy steps citizens should take to get ready.

"We learned from Katrina that most citizens were not as prepared as they should have been," said Michael Cline, state coordinator for VDEM. "Each Virginian has the responsibility to prepare their homes and families, and it is easier than they think."

The four basic steps to disaster preparedness are: get a kit, make a plan, listen for instructions and learn your evacuation routes.

1. Emergency Supply Kit

Putting together an emergency supply kit takes little time and money, but it will provide your family or employees with the tools they need when it counts. An emergency supply kit includes, among other things, essential items to last at least three days, such as water and non-perishable food, a battery-powered radio and extra batteries, flashlights, a first aid kit and medications.

2. Communication Plan

Making a communications plan involves discussing the hazards and threats for your area and what your family or employees would do during an actual emergency. As you create your plan, decide on a meeting place if your family cannot return home, designate an out-of-town friend or

relative as a point-of-contact and plan for the specific needs of your household, such as an evacuation destination for pets or transportation for medical equipment.

3. Local Instructions

Before, during and after a disaster, it is critical that you listen for the most local, up-to-date information from emergency officials. Local media will convey instructions from local, state and federal government partners concerning evacuation orders, how to safely stay where you are and what to do when the emergency has passed.

4. Evacuation routes

Coastal residents should become familiar with their designated evacuation routes and know where they will go if ordered to evacuate. Emergency officials have designated hurricane evacuation routes for Hampton, the Eastern Shore, Norfolk, Poquoson, the Middle Peninsula, the Northern Neck, Virginia Beach and York County.

Inland residents should know where to go if ordered to evacuate their area. Flash floods can develop in a matter of minutes, with little or no warning. Know ahead of time where your family or employees should go to find higher ground.

For more information about the combined preparedness campaign, visit VDEM's Web site, www.vaemergency.com. Visit www.redcross.org to find contact information for your local American red Cross chapter.

VDEM: Marc LaFountain, (804) 897-6510, www.vaemergency.com

VDOT: Wanda Gill, (757) 925-2584, www.virginiaDOT.org

NOAA/National Weather Service:

- Wakefield, Bill Sammler, (757) 899-5732, www.erh.noaa.gov/akq/
- Sterling, Dave Manning, (703) 260-0209, www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/
- Blacksburg, Phil Hysell, (540) 552-1613, www.erh.noaa.gov/rnk/
- Morristown, TN, Howard Waldron, (423) 586-3771, www.srh.noaa.gov/mrx/

American Red Cross, www.redcross.org

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging
Julie Christopher., Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors and Program Staff,
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Bill Peterson
Deputy Commissioner for Programs

DATE: June 20, 2006

SUBJECT: Follow-Up: Identity & Citizenship Documentation for Medicaid

This is a follow-up to the memo sent on June 13, 2006 (06-123). Please pull up this memo and review the new documentation requirements for citizenship.

The new CMS requirements concerning documentation for identity and citizenship will impact many of our older clients including grandparents who are raising their grandchildren or other minor relatives. I will continue to send you regular updates on how DMAS plans to implement and enforce these new requirements as more guidance is provided by CMS and as decisions are finalized at the state level. In the meantime here are some tentative highlights:

- Remember that prior to the enactment of the 2005 Deficit Reduction Act, Medicaid did not require documentation of citizenship. Applicants only had to affirm their citizenship when they signed their application for benefits. Now, applicants must provide documentation as to their identity and their citizenship.
 - In the material sent out on 6/13/06, note that there are four (4) levels of acceptable documentation that your local DSS eligibility staff can accept to verify identity and citizenship for Medicaid. Level one (the highest) documentation includes a passport or certificates of citizenship or naturalization. Level four (the lowest) documentation includes census records, hospital records, and written affidavits. Note, however, that CMS will review the percentage of applications that each state approves using level four documentation. If a state exceeds a certain percentage of these

applications, CMS may conduct an audit and penalize the state. So the pressure is on for states to encourage documentation at levels one through three!

- Current Medicaid recipients will have to provide the required documentation at the time their eligibility is renewed or if they become ineligible for any reason and then have to reapply for benefits. However, once an individual has provided the documentation and it has been accepted by the local DSS, they will never need to provide this documentation again.
- DMAS has told me that they will do everything possible to allow Medicaid applicants and current beneficiaries the time needed to obtain the necessary documentation. DMAS also pledges to work with other agencies and groups to help applicants obtain the documentation they need and hopes to be as flexible as possible. I believe we will receive more details on this “flexibility” in the near future.
- For those applicants who are receiving SSI, their citizenship status has already been verified. However, there is no word yet on how DSS will confirm this verification through CMS or the SSA.
- Don’t forget that a Virginia driver’s license can only be used to verify identity....not citizenship.
- DMAS is working with the Office of Vital Statistics at the Virginia Department of Health to develop some type of streamlined process for verifying birth certificates (as well as for obtaining birth certificates from other states). It is my understanding that your local DSS will only need to receive a confirmation of the birth certificate number from Vital Statistics....not a copy of the actual certificate.
- DMAS is working with DMHMRSAS to see if they can develop an ID card that persons in mental health facilities who do not have any form of identifications can use to verify their identity if they apply for Medicaid.
- DMAS is working with the Virginia Department of Education to identify documents that may be kept in students’ school files that can be used to

document identity and maybe citizenship. This will be of interest to grandparents raising their grandchildren.

- Ironically, Individuals who have been incarcerated in one of Virginia's prisons (not local jails) already have access to documentation prepared by the Department of Corrections that verifies their identity and citizenship status. Keep this in mind when dealing with older individuals who have recently been paroled or released from a state correctional facility.
- DMAS plans to notify Medicaid beneficiaries of the new documentation requirements so they can begin to gather this material prior to a renewal or reapplication. You may also want to be proactive in notifying your older clients that they will need to confirm their citizenship status if they will be applying for Medicaid (or renewing their eligibility).
- DMAS and DSS plan to do extensive training for local Medicaid eligibility determination staff around these new documentation requirements. Once this training takes place over the next several weeks, AAA staff will want to confer with their local DSS eligibility staff if they have questions about documentation for citizenship.